NUMB. CCCCLXXII.

# The SPECTATOR.

*------Voluptas*
*Solamenque mali------* Virg.

*Monday, September* 1. 1712.

I Received ſome time ago a Propoſal, which had a Preface to it, wherein the Author diſcourſed at large of the innumerable Objects of Charity in a Nation, and admoniſh'd the Rich, who were afflicted with any Diſtemper of Body, particularly to regard the Poor in the ſame Species of Affliction, and confine their Tenderneſs to them, ſince it is impoſſible to aſſiſt all who are preſented to them. The Propoſer had been relieved from a Malady in his Eyes by an Operation perform'd by Sir *William Read*; and being a Man of Condition, had taken a Reſolution to maintain three poor blind Men during their Lives, in Gratitude for that great Bleſſing. This Misfortune is ſo very great and unfrequent, that, one would think, an Eſtabliſhment for all the Poor under it might be eaſily accompliſhed, with the Addition of a very few others to thoſe Wealthy who are in the ſame Calamity. However, the Thought of the Propoſer aroſe from a very good Motive, and the parcelling of our ſelves out, as called to particular Acts of Beneficence, would be a pretty Cement of Society and Virtue. It is the ordinary Foundation for Mens holding a Commerce with each other, and becoming familiar, that they agree in the ſame Sort of Pleaſure; and ſure it may alſo be ſome Reaſon for Amity, that they are under one common Diſtreſs. If all the Rich who are lame in the Gout, from a Life of Eaſe, Pleaſure, and Luxury, would help thoſe few who have it without a previous Life of Pleaſure, and add a few of ſuch laborious Men, who are become lame from unhappy Blows, Falls, or other Accidents of Age or Sickneſs; I ſay, would ſuch gouty Perſons adminiſter to the Neceſſities of Men diſabled like themſelves, the Conſciouſneſs of ſuch a Behaviour would be the beſt Julep, Cordial, and Anodine in the feveriſh, faint, and tormenting Viciſſitudes of that miſerable Diſtemper. The ſame may be ſaid of all other, both bodily and intellectual Evils. Theſe Claſſes of Charity would certainly bring down Bleſſings upon an Age and People; and if Men were not petrify'd with the Love of this World, againſt all Senſe of the Commerce which ought to be among them, it would not be an unreaſonable Bill for a poor Man in the Agony of Pain, aggravated by Want and Poverty, to draw upon a ſick Alderman after this Form.

*Mr.* Baſil Plenty,
SIR,

*YOU have the Gout and Stone, with Sixty thouſand Pounds Sterling; I have the Gout and Stone, not worth one Farthing: I ſhall pray for you, and deſire you would pay the Bearer Twenty Shillings for Value received from,*

Cripple-Gate, Aug. 29. 1712.

SIR,
Your humble Servant,
*Lazarus Hopeful.*

The Reader's own Imagination will ſuggeſt to him the Reaſonableneſs of ſuch Correſpondences, and diverſify them into a thouſand Forms; but I ſhall cloſe this as I began upon the Subject of Blindneſs. The following Letter ſeems to be written by a Man of Learning, who is return'd to his Study after a Suſpence of an Ability to do ſo. The Benefit he reports himſelf to have received, may well claim the handſomeſt Encomium he can give the Operator.

*Mr.* SPECTATOR,

'RUminating lately on your admirable Diſcourſes on the *Pleaſures of the Imagination*, I began to conſider to which of our Senſes we are obliged for the greateſt and moſt important Share of thoſe Pleaſures; and ſoon concluded that it was to the *Sight*: That is the Sovereign of the Senſes, and Mother of all the Arts and Sciences, that have refined the Rudeneſs of the uncultivated Mind to a Politeneſs that diſtinguiſhes the fine Spirits from the barbarous *Goût* of the *great* Vulgar and the *ſmall*. The Sight is the obliging Benefactreſs, that beſtows on us the moſt tranſporting Senſations that we have from the various and wonderful Products of Nature. To the Sight we owe the amazing Diſcoveries of the Height, Magnitude, and Motion of the Planets; their ſeveral Revolutions about their common Centre of Light, Heat, and Motion, the *Sun*. The *Sight* travels yet farther to the fix'd Stars, and furniſhes the Underſtanding with ſolid Reaſons to prove, that each of them is a *Sun* moving on its own Axis, in the Centre of its own Vortex or Turbillion, and performing the ſame Offices to its dependant Planets, that our glorious Sun does to this. But the Enquiries of the *Sight* will not be ſtopp'd here, but make their Progreſs through the immenſe Expanſe to the *Milky Way*, and there divide the blended Fires of the *Galaxy* into infinite and different Worlds, made up of diſtinct Suns, and their peculiar Equipages of Planets; till unable to purſue this Track any farther, it deputes the Imagination to go on to new Diſcoveries, till it fill the unbounded Space with endleſs Worlds.

'The *Sight* informs the Statuary's Chizel with Power to give Breath to liveleſs Braſs and Marble, and the Painter's Pencil to ſwell the flat Canvas with moving Figures actuated by imaginary Souls. Muſick indeed may plead another Original, ſince *Jubal*, by the different Falls of his Hammer on the Anvil, diſcovered by the Ear the firſt rude Muſick that pleas'd the Antediluvian Fathers; but then the *Sight* has not only reduc'd thoſe wilder Sounds into artful Order and Harmony, but conveys that Harmony to the moſt diſtant Parts of the World without the Help of Sound. To the *Sight* we owe not only all the Diſcoveries of Philoſophy, but all the divine Imagery of Poetry,

Poetry, that transport the intelligent Reader of *Homer*, *Milton*, and *Virgil*.

'As the Sight has poliſh'd the World, ſo does it ſupply us with the moſt grateful and laſting Pleaſure. Let Love, let Friendſhip, paternal Affection, filial Piety, and conjugal Duty, declare the Joys the *Sight* beſtows on a Meeting after Abſence. But it would be endleſs to enumerate all the Pleaſures and Advantages of *Sight*; every one that has it, every Hour he makes uſe of it, finds them, feels them, enjoys them.

'Thus as our greateſt Pleaſures and Knowledge are deriv'd from the Sight, ſo has Providence been more curious in the Formation of its Seat, the Eye, than of the Organs of the other Senſes. That ſtupendious Machine is compos'd in a wonderful Manner of Muſcles, Membranes, and Humours. Its Motions are admirably directed by the Muſcles; the Perſpicuity of the Humours tranſmit the Rays of Light; the Rays are regularly refracted by their Figure; the black Lining of the Sclerotes effectually prevents their being confounded by Reflection. It is wonderful indeed to conſider how many Objects the Eye is fitted to take in at once, and ſucceſſively in an Inſtant, and at the ſame Time to make a Judgment of their Poſition, Figure, and Colour. It watches againſt our Dangers, guides our Steps, and lets in all the viſible Objects, whoſe Beauty and Variety inſtruct and delight.

'The Pleaſures and Advantages of Sight being ſo great, the Loſs muſt be very grievous; of which *Milton*, from Experience, gives the moſt ſenſible Idea, both in the third Book of his *Paradiſe loſt*, and in his *Sampſon Agoniſtes*.

To Light in the former.

----- *Thee I reviſit ſafe,*
*And feel thy ſovereign vital Lamp; but thou*
*Reviſit'ſt not theſe Eyes, that roul in vain*
*To find thy piercing Ray, but find no Dawn.*

And a little after.

*Seaſons return, but not to me returns*
*Day, or the ſweet Approach of Ev'n and Morn,*
*Or Sight of vernal Bloom, or Summer's Roſe,*
*Or Flocks or Herds, or humane Face divine;*
*But Cloud inſtead, and ever-during Dark*
*Surround me: From the chearful Ways of Men*
*Cut off; and for the Book of Knowledge fair,*
*Preſented with an univerſal Blank*
*Of Nature's Works, to me expung'd and raz'd,*
*And Wiſdom at one Entrance quite ſhut out.*

Again, in *Sampſon Agoniſtes*.

----- *But Chief of all,*
*O Loſs of Sight! of thee I moſt complain;*
*Blind among Enemies! O worſe than Chains,*
*Dungeon, or Beggery, or decrepid Age!*
*Light, the prime Work of God, to me's extinct,*
*And all her various Objects of Delight*
*Annull'd*-----

-----*Still as a Fool,*
*In Power of others, never in my own.*
*Scarce half I ſeem to live, dead more than Half:*
*O dark! dark! dark! amid the Blaze of Noon!*
*Irrecoverably dark, total Eclipſe,*
*Without all Hopes of Day!*

'The Enjoyment of Sight then being ſo great a Bleſſing, and the Loſs of it ſo terrible an Evil, how excellent and valuable is the Skill of that Artiſt which can reſtore the former, and redreſs the latter? My frequent Peruſal of the Advertiſements in the publick News-Papers (generally the moſt agreeable Entertainment they afford) has preſented me with many and various Benefits of this Kind done to my Countrymen by that ſkilful Artiſt Dr. *Grant*, Her Majeſty's Occuliſt Extraordinary, whoſe happy Hand has brought and reſtor'd to Sight ſeveral Hundreds in leſs than Four Years. Many have received Sight by his means who came blind from their Mother's Womb, as in the famous Inſtance of *Jones* of *Newington*. I my ſelf have been cured by him of a Weakneſs in my Eyes next to Blindneſs, and am ready to believe any thing that is reported of his Ability this way; and know that many, who could not purchaſe his Aſſiſtance with Money, have enjoy'd it from his Charity. But a Liſt of Particulars would ſwell my Letter beyond its Bounds, what I have ſaid being ſufficient to comfort thoſe who are in the like Diſtreſs, ſince they may conceive Hopes of being no longer miſerable in this Kind, while there is yet alive ſo able an Oculiſt as Dr. *Grant*.

*I am*
*The* SPECTATOR's *humble Servant*,
Philanthropus.

## *ADVERTISEMENTS.*


Mr. Burges, Druggeſt, at the Blue Anchor in Fleetſtreet, has received a new Supply of Spa Water, freſh and good, and certified as ſuch by the Greffier of the Spa, and being taken up from the beſt Well there, can with the greater Certainty recommend it. N. B. He ſells all Sorts of fine Tea's from Holland, and Spaniſh Snuff by wholeſale or retail.

Notice is hereby given,

That there will be expos'd to Sale at the Marine Coffee-houſe in Burchin Lane in Cornhill, on Tueſday the 14th of October, 1712 the remaining Part of the Cargoe of the Bachelor Prize, taken in the South-Seas by the Duke and Dutcheſs, private Ships of War belonging to Briſtol, conſiſting of the following Goods, viz. Allejars, Atlaſſes, Cuttanees, colour'd Callicoes, Chints, Fine and ſhid divers Sorts, ditto Ordinary, Chelloes, Carradarrees, Damasks, Elatches, Guiny-Stuffs, Nillaes, Niccanees, Patoes, Pelorgs, Paunches, Palampores, Quilts, Romalls, Ribbons divers Sorts, Sedeſeys, Satins and Taffaties divers Sorts, &c. Catalogues will be timely printed, and affixed on the Royal Exchange, and may be had at the ſaid Marine Coffee-houſe, at Major Long's Ware-houſe in Seething-Lane, and at Samuel Proctor's, Broker, in St. Martins-Lane in Cannon Street.

The Vapours in Women infallibly Cured in an Inſtant, ſo as never to return again, by an admirable Chymical Secret, a few drops of which takes off a Fit in a Moment, diſpels Dimneſs, clears the Head, takes away all Swimming, Giddineſs, Sadneſs of Sight, Flushings in the Face, &c. to a Miracle, and moſt certainly prevents the Vapours returning again; for by Rooting out the very Cauſe it perfectly Cures as Hundreds have experienc'd: It alſo ſtrengthens the Stomach and Bowels, and cauſes Livelineſs and ſettled Health. Is ſold only at Mrs. Osborn's, Toy-ſhop, at the Roſe and Crown under St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet, at 2 s. 6 d.

Stoughton's great Cordial Elixir to be taken 70 or 80 Drops in a Glaſs of Sherry, Mountain or Canary, Beer, Ale or Tea, hot, once or twice a Day, is the beſt one Medicine in the World to keep the Body in a due State of Health and Vigour, and to prevent this new Diſtemper which ariſes from an ill diſpoſition of the Air, againſt which this is of excellent uſe, as hath been largely experienced at Sweden, the Weſt-Indies, &c. and by many here to their Satisfaction, and ſuch great Quantities taken to Sea, and ſent by Merchants Abroad for the ſame end confirm. Few now going to Sea, or a large Journey without it; when taken ill, in Mum Ale, &c. as the Bills direct, (now being in French and Dutch as well as Engliſh) going to Bed and Sweating will ſoon anſwer. Prepared only by him at his Ware-houſe in Red-Lyon-ſtreet, Southwark, he having obtained Her Majeſty's moſt gracious Letters Patents for the ſole making thereof. Sold at many places in and about London, alſo at ſome one Bookſeller, Shopkeeper, or Coffee-houſe, &c. in moſt Cities and great Towns in Europe, at 1 s. a Bottle; and where it is not yet ſold, any Perſon who ſends firſt may have it to ſell again, with good Allowance, many now ſelling large Quantities yearly: Ready Money is expected of all at delivery, and if any be returned, the ſame to be paid back on Demand. ☞ He gives Notice, as deſired, that he hath got again the true Venice Treacle in Tin Pots, right as it came over.



LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.


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